

Shawn Spano, Ph.D. is a Professor in the Communication Studies Department at San José State University. He teaches courses and conducts research in dialogue facilitation, interpersonal communication and communication education. He is currently the co-principle investigator on a Ford Foundation grant given to SJSU to develop a Difficult Dialogues Initiative on campus.

In addition to his faculty position, Shawn is a Communication Consultant and founding member of the Public Dialogue Consortium, a non-profit group of practitioners devoted to improving the quality of communication in local communities and public organizations. He has eight years of experience working with city government, higher education, and the non-profit sector, including multi-year projects with two different municipalities. Shawn is a specialist in designing and facilitating meetings, public forums, one-on-one conversations, training workshops, and off-site meetings with local residents, elected officials, commissions and boards, and staff.

His client list includes the City of Cupertino, City of San José, Town of Los Gatos, City of Pismo Beach, International Coaching Federation, San José State University, Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network, Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters, Silicon Valley Commonwealth Club, and the Community Coalition for End of Life Care. Shawn was selected "SJSU Outstanding Professor" in 2000, and has published numerous articles and chapters, including the book, *Public Dialogue and Participatory Democracy: The Cupertino Community Project* (Hampton Press, 2001).